Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the additional grounds that no basis has been given for the conclusion that the product as claimed could be made as the Office suggests or that the suggested process is materially different from what is claimed.

Accordingly, for the reasons given above, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is kindly solicited.

If the elected invention is allowable, Applicants kindly request the Office to consider rejoining the non-elected claims if the non-elected claims were amended to incorporate all the limitations of the allowable claims. MPEP §821.04.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is kindly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT #.C.

J. Derek Mason, Ph.D. Attorney of Record

Registration No. 35,270

John K. Pike, Ph.D. Registration No. 41,253

22850

(703) 413-3000

Fax #: (703) 413-2220

NFO/JKP:cja

I:\atty\JKP\2002\07-02\211473US-restriction.wpd